

## REMARKS

Claims 20-36 are pending.

Claims 20-23, 26, 28-32, and 34-36 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by Morris (US 5,369,042).

Claims 24, 25, 27 and 33 are objected to.

### **Changes in the Claims:**

Claims 20-36 have been amended in this application to further particularly point out and distinctly claim subject matter regarded as the invention. No new matter has been added.

### **Claim Objections – claim 20**

Claim 20 is objected to because of informalities. Claim 20 has been accordingly amended to remove the informalities. The objection is now moot.

### **Rejection under 35 USC 112 – claim 20**

Claim 20 has been rejected to as being indefinite because of the term “at least one zone”. Claim 20 has been amended accordingly to further particularly point out and distinctly claim subject matter regarded as the invention.

### **Rejection under 35 USC §102(b) – claims 20-23, 26, 28-32, and 34-36**

Claims 20-23, 26, 28-32, and 34-36 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by Morris (US 5,369,042). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

A claim must be anticipated for a proper rejection under §102(a), (b), and (e).

This requirement is satisfied “only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference”; see MPEP §2131 and *Verdegaal Bros. V. Union Oil*, 814 F.2d 628, 2 USPQ2d 1051 (Fed. Cir. 1984). A rejection under §102(b) may be overcome by showing that the claims are patentably distinguishable from the prior art; see MPEP §706.02(b).

Morris teaches a method for forming a bipolar transistor. The bipolar transistor device has an electrical conduction limited to a superficial layer comprising regions 52 and 64 in the thickness of the layer. These regions 52 and 64 are used to produce isolated transistors and not “a vertical electrical connection between the face of the thin layer opposite to the support and the face of the support opposite to the thin layer.” See claim 20.

In contrast, the presently claimed invention claims at least one zone in the thin layer that “allows a vertical electrical connection between the **face of the thin layer** opposite to the support and the **face of the support** opposite to the thin layer.” Morris does not teach the above limitation because the regions 52 and 64 are used to produce transistors and not an electrical connection. Therefore, Morris does not teach a vertical electrical connection between the face of the thin layer opposite to the support and the face of the support opposite to the thin layer.

The presently claimed invention is, accordingly, distinguishable over the cited reference. In the view of the foregoing, it is respectfully asserted that claim 20 is now in condition for allowance.

**Rejection of claims 21-23, 26, 28-32, and 34-36**

Claims 21-23, 26, 28-32, and 34-36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b).

These rejections are respectfully traversed for at least the reason that each of the rejected claims ultimately depend on an above-discussed base claim. The arguments set forth above regarding the base claims are equally applicable here. The base claims being allowable, the dependent claims must also be allowable.

**Conclusion**

For all of the above reasons, applicants submit that the amended claims are now in proper form, and that the amended claims all define patentable subject matter over the prior art. Therefore, Applicants submit that this application is now in condition for allowance.

**Request for allowance**

It is believed that this Amendment places the above-identified patent application into condition for allowance. Early favorable consideration of this Amendment is earnestly solicited. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, an interview would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,  
THELEN REID & PRIEST LLP



---

Thierry K. Lo  
Reg. No. 49,097

Dated: July 26, 2004

Thelen Reid & Priest LLP  
P.O. Box 640640  
San Jose, CA 95164-0640  
(408) 282-1810 Direct  
(408) 292-5800 Main  
(408) 278-8210 Fax